

Seminar

Ritual, Law, Justice and the Question of Time and Space

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In this paper I propose to look at the connection between ritual of justice and psychoanalysis. I consider how the myth of the primal hordes, and the killing of the Father, shows the link between the individuals and the group through civilisation becomes. I analyse what mechanisms are in place to protect the civilisation and particularly the importance of the trial and in turn the importance of ritualisation in and on the trial. The brothers in trial will be reunited again, judging and condemning this act of parricide that reminds them about the primal act of parricide, the original crime. Trial seems, in a way, to hold civilization, hence the crucial aspect of its ritual. 'In all ritual sites, some kinds of performance takes place.' Trials happening in specific space (palaces of justice), through specific timing are conducted in 3 phases that I believe mirror periods of psychoanalytical work, ultimately linking here too individuals and the group.

Dr David Marrani is a lecturer in Public and Comparative law at the School of Law of the University of Essex in the UK. He is one of the experts in French public law in the UK and is committed to inter-disciplinary research, holding also a MA in philosophy and psychoanalysis. His research links notably law, legal theory, philosophy and psychoanalysis. He has been researching specifically on the symbolic position of the judge showing how the authority of the judge is created and reinforced through a judicial ceremonial (uniform of the judge and judicial architecture).

12.30pm, Monday 24 May 2010

Cabinet Room, Level 1, Old Government Buildings, 15 Lambton Quay, Wellington

Please RSVP (attendances only) to olivia.james@vuw.ac.nz

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